

I fully support the Petition For Rule Making presented by the FISTS CW Club. Amateur Radio is, first and foremost, a service and like any other service to the public, at least a minimum amount of training should be required before an operator is considered to be knowledgeable enough to provide that service. This training should include both technical and procedural skills in all areas of Amateur Radio operation. In my opinion, if Morse code testing were to be abolished, we would see fewer fully rounded, skilled individuals in Amateur Radio. Morse code IS often the only usable mode during times of unfavorable propagation and high noise levels as stated in the introduction to this petition. There is only a very small percentage of persons interested in Amateur Radio that cannot learn Morse Code at the currently required five words per minute due to some physical handicap such as hearing loss. The ones that do not want to learn it but are able, to me personally, show a lack of interest in being a well-rounded, knowledgeable and fully prepared operator that will advance and support the service that our ranks provide. That said, I believe that our testing should be even more thorough as has been the case in the past so that our ranks will be enhanced by attracting people with a true interest in and dedication to the service of Amateur Radio. D.N. Forrest, KD5MDO, FISTS #9488